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FROM: Lome

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 79, October 6, 4 P.M.

ACTION DEPARTMENT 79 INFORMATION ACCRA

Reference Department Circular 644.

Togo probably has more reason than most approve US action which would indicate disapproval current trend Ghana's internal and foreign policies. Initial reaction in certain quarters might therefore be favorable. General government and public opinion, however, would view action in context US attitudes towards African development and would interpret our pull-out as rejection African desire maintain non-aligned position and as confirmation their underlying suspicions US aid primarily motivated by cold war considerations and vitiated by political strings. This would give anti-West elements additional grist for their mill. Would also tend undermine general confidence in US economic aid commitments. Even those few intially approving would on reflection probably join majority in disapproval.

General opinion here views Volta project as already firm commitment by US and failure carry through would appear as breach international faith. Although GOT-Ghana relations such that Volta project not now seen as possible benefit to Togo, Togolese tend to favor project which would benefit trans-Volta region heavily populated by Ewe brethern. In sum then, decision by US at this late date not go through Volta project would substantially damage US image and prestige in Togo.

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